(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has requested the Centre to reconsider the decision and give clearance to the project considering the importance of the project to the state; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Pooyamkutty project was accorded environmental clearance in June, 1985 subject to implementation of various safeguard measures. The proposal, however, was rejected under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in January, 1991 as the benefits from the project were not found to be commensurate with the likely environmental and ecological losses.

(c) and (d) Kerala State Government has requested for review of the proposal and it is under consideration whether the project could be modified to reduce environmental degradation.

Programme for Saving Nilgiri Hills

1063. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Government's plans for saving Nilgiri hills from decaying further; and

(b) what is the achievement made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A series of measures have been initiated by the Central as well as the State Governments to save Nilgiri hills. These include:

— Establishment of a Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which has protected a total of 5,200 sq. kms area. Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 291.18 lakhs has been so far released for management of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserves. The activities carried out include Survey and demarcation, Protection, Eco-development, Demonstration projects, Education and training etc.

— Hill area development programme which has undertaken extensive soil and water conservation works, as well as given rigorous protection to many patches of sholo vegetation.

— Nilgiris Private Tree Protection Act which has regulated all tree cutting on private lands; and

— Building construction in these hills is regulated strictly under the provisions of the specific legal enactments.

Hunting in Hastinapur Sanctuary

1064. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of persons armed heavily were caught redhanded on 24th January, 1993 for intruding into the Hastinapur Swamp Deer Sanctuary near Muzzafaranagar and hunting throughout the night;

(b) if so, who were the persons caught; the extent demage and the number of animals killed; and

(c) what legal action was taken against them for violating the penal and Wild-laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The staff of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary alongwith the Police of Mirapur Police Station apprehended seven persons who were allegedly involved in poaching of wild animals in the sanctuary in the night of 23rd/24th January, 1993.

As per report received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttar Pradesh, one hog deer, 3 rabbits and a bag containing the skin of wild animals were seized. A case has been registered against the alleged offenders with the Police and matter is now in the Court of Law.

Denudation of the Ridge

1065. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Development Authority is ill-equipped to arrest denudation of the ridge;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to check the denudation of the ridge?